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Office - Supreme Court, U.S.  
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In the Supreme Court of the  
United States

October Term, 1982

ALYCE HOVSEPIAN, A/K/A ALYCE  
HOVSEPIAN HUGHES, Pro Se,  
*Petitioner,*

v.

GEORGE F. NEFF, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR  
OF THE ESTATE OF ANNETTE GANO  
LUMMIS AND NORTON BOND, EXECUTOR  
OF THE ESTATE OF RUSH HUGHES,  
*Respondents*

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO  
THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF  
TEXAS

ALYCE HOVSEPIAN  
A/K/A ALYCE HOVSEPIAN HUGHES,  
*Pro Se*

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## **QUESTIONS PRESENTED**

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Was the Supreme Court of Texas correct when it refused Petitioner's application for a writ of error and overruled Petitioner's motion for a rehearing, whereby it agreed with the opinion dated August 12, 1982 of the Court of Appeals, 14th Supreme Judicial District, Houston, Texas, wherein the court ignored the following errors: (1) the court below had no jurisdiction in the proceedings due to defective service in violation of Petitioner's right to due process; (2) the conduct of the court below, during the July 13, 1981 hearing, violated the Petitioner's right to due process; (3) a motion for summary judgment should not be granted before an answer?

Was the Supreme Court of Texas correct when it agreed with the Court of Appeals, Houston, Texas, when it ruled unfavorably against the Petitioner with respect to notice of the date of the hearing, and in a similar circumstance, ruled favorably, as in the case cited further herein?

## **LIST OF PARTIES INVOLVED**

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Pursuant to the Rules of this Court the following were parties in the court whose judgment is sought to be reviewed:

Alyce Hovsepian, a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian Hughes

George F. Neff, Independent Executor of the Estate of Annette Gano Lummis

Norton Bond, Executor of the Estate of Rush Hughes

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*Opinion Below*

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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October Term, 1982

No.

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ALYCE HOVSEPIAN, A/K/A ALYCE HOVSEPIAN  
HUGHES,  
Pro Se,

*Petitioner,*

v.

GEORGE F. NEFF, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF  
THE ESTATE OF ANNETTE GANO LUMMIS AND  
NORTON BOND, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF  
RUSH HUGHES,

*Respondents.*

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**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS**

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**OPINION BELOW**

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The Supreme Court of Texas refused Petitioner's application for a writ of error on December 15, 1982 and overruled Petitioner's motion for a rehearing on January 5, 1983. On January 13, 1983 the Court of Appeals, 14th Supreme Judicial District, Houston, Texas issued its mandate, which was filed February 7, 1983 in the Harris County, Texas Probate files, after which date it was available for the Petitioner to request a copy. Copies of these documents are attached in the Petitioner's appendix.

## JURISDICTION

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The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under Section 1257, Chapter 81, Supreme Court (Part IV—Jurisdiction and Venue), (Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, p. 413, West's), Title 28, U. S. C. 1257.

The Court of Civil Appeals, 14th Supreme Judicial District, Houston, Texas, filed its opinion on August 12, 1982 and refused a rehearing, affirming an order of the Harris County, Texas Probate Court Number Two, granting two separate motions for summary judgment against Petitioner, Alyce Hovsepian, a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian Hughes in the matter of the estate of Howard R. Hughes, Jr., deceased dated July 23, 1981 and August 19, 1981. Copies of the opinion and judgments are attached in the Petitioner's appendix.

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## STATUTES AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS INVOLVED

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Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 166-A:

“(a) A party . . . may, at any time after the adverse party has appeared or answered, move . . . for a summary judgment.”

“(c) The motion . . . shall be filed and served at least twenty-one days before the time specified for the hearing.”

*Statutes and Constitutional Provisions*

United States Constitution, Amendment I:

" . . . no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech. . . ."

United States Constitution, Amendment V:

" . . . nor . . . compelled . . . to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of . . . property, without due process of law. . . ."

United States Constitution, Amendment VI:

" . . . and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense."

United States Constitution, Amendment VII:

" . . . the right of a trial by jury shall be preserved. . . ."

United States Constitution, Amendment XIV:

"No State shall . . . abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens . . . or . . . deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

*Statement of the Case*

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## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

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On July 13, 1981 a motion for summary judgment was heard against Alyce Hovsepian, a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian Hughes in the proceedings to declare heirship in the matter of the Estate of Howard Robard Hughes, Jr., deceased in the Probate Court Number Two, in Houston, Harris County, Texas. Two judgments were issued, one dated July 23, 1981 and a second dated August 19, 1981, dismissing the claim of heirship of Alyce Hovsepian, a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian Hughes.

On August 12, 1982 the opinion of the Court of Appeals 14th Supreme Judicial District, affirmed the judgment of the trial court. On October 7, 1982 it overruled the Petitioner's motion for rehearing.

The Supreme Court of Texas refused Petitioner's application for a writ of error on December 15, 1982 and overruled Petitioner's motion for a rehearing on January 5, 1983. On January 13, 1983 The Court of Appeals issued a mandate which was filed in the Harris County, Texas, Probate files on February 7, 1983.

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### Parties Involved

Petitioner, Alyce Hovsepian, Pro Se, filed claims in 1976, in Wilmington, Delaware; Houston, Texas; Las Vegas, Nevada; Los Angeles, California, and later in other jurisdictions, as an heir, claiming to have married Howard R. Hughes, Jr., in June 1946 and never divorced by him.

*Statement of the Case*

She claims marriage by Pennsylvania common law and states that she was married in a church in New Jersey, by a minister she has now located but the records are presently missing.

George F. Neff, Independent Executor of the Estate of Annette Gano Lummis, deceased, and Norton Bond, Executor of the Estate of Rush Hughes, are two interested parties who initiated the summary judgment motions in the lower court.

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**Summary of Facts**

The court below had no jurisdiction in the proceedings due to defective service. Reasonable notice of the date of the hearing was not given and therefore was not in accordance with federal and local rules. The Petitioner was denied her rights of due process to which she is entitled to under the Constitution of the United States.

The due process clause of the Constitutional Amendment XIV has been construed as follows:

- (1) "Imposes limitations on the circumstances under which a State court may validly summon before it a person who is situated outside the state."
- (2) "Imposes requirements re giving reasonable notice."

Petitioner is at present a resident of the State of New Jersey, who had to travel a great distance to Texas several times at her own expense and time, without proper notice of a hearing date, and was disposed of summarily with inadequate evidence, without appellant's written answer (which was located much later in a drawer in the judge's

*Statement of the Case*

office and not properly on file before the hearing as it was in response to a hearing scheduled for April 24, 1981 and cancelled). Petitioner was disposed of without due process and by a lower court without jurisdiction.

Constitutional Amendments VII and XIV both "impose requirements concerning the giving of reasonable notice to a party against whom a proceeding is brought in a state court." (Appellant's Brief, p. 1.)

Petitioner was deprived of her fundamental rights by reason of the conduct of the summary judgment hearing by the lower Probate Court Number Two in Houston, Texas on July 13, 1981. Petitioner was deprived of her right to: consultation with her attorney; a fair and impartial trial, or hearing; protection from being a witness against herself; freedom of speech and a trial by jury. (Constitutional Amendments I, V, VI, VII and XIV.) (See appellant brief p. 57 and pp. 63-64.)

*Argument***ARGUMENT**

The following are errors in the court below which are relied upon here:

(1) The court below had no jurisdiction in the proceedings due to defective service (Appellant Brief, point I). See Petitioner's motion for rehearing to the Supreme Court of Texas, pages 1 and 2, e.g., *Gulf Refining Company v. A. F. G. Management 34 Limited et al.*, 605 S.W. 2d 346 (Texas Court of Civil Appeal, 14th District, Houston, Texas, dated August 6, 1980) (reversed and remanded, rehearing denied September 10, 1980). (Also, see Petitioner's Application for Writ of Error, pages 4-6.) This very same appellate court made a favorable ruling in this case relative to "notice" and the *date* of the hearing, but did not rule in favor of the Petitioner, who did not have proper advance notice of the specific date of the hearing. Nowhere in the record is there proof of proper notice of the date of the hearing, except for the notice filed and stamped on Friday (4:14 p.m., July 10, 1981) which was insufficient notice for the hearing at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 13, 1981, which coincided with the public heirship hearings scheduled for that day. Before the court can properly take jurisdiction, the defendant must be properly served with process. Not giving sufficient notice of the date of the hearing is to be considered taking advantage of opposite counsel and defective service. (Petitioner's Application for Writ of Error, p. 5.) (Also, see Petitioner's Appellant Brief, p. 2.)

*Argument*

(2) The conduct of the court below, during the July 13, 1981 hearing was a violation of the Petitioner's right to due process. (See Petitioner's Motion for Rehearing, Point I and Point II, pages 1-2; and Petitioner's Application for Writ of Error, Point III, p. 4; both to the Supreme Court of Texas.) Petitioner was denied the right of access to her counsel, except for two minutes. She was not allowed to sit next to her counsel. The Court of Civil Appeals glossed over Petitioner's brief of sixteen points, denying her due process. The lower court was in confusion due to the crush of crowding.

(3) A motion for summary judgment should not be granted before an answer. (Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 56 and State rules patterned thereafter.) The Supreme Court of Texas denied the Petitioner due process in this and in other instances. The lower court should have given the Petitioner every opportunity to defend herself. A request for a continuance was not granted and the Petitioner was deprived of her rights to file opposing and important affidavits obtained with reasonable diligence just prior to the hearing. This result due to defective service is in itself sufficient grounds to grant the writ. The Supreme Court again denied the Petitioner due process by accepting the statement of the Court of Appeals in its opinion dated August 12, 1982, quoting from the Petitioner's deposition one statement out of context, while ignoring contrary statements from eight pages of the same deposition, showing partiality and depriving the Petitioner of her rights to due process and a fair hearing under the Constitution. Elaboration on the points involved are fully set forth in the record.

*Argument***Background**

A separate decision as to the domicile of the decedent is expected to be forthcoming from this Court next year. Presently, estate administration has been carried on under the laws of Texas and Nevada. Prior to the death of Howard R. Hughes, Jr., in 1976, there existed the Hollywood fantasy that he had no living relatives or spouse. Since then, certain heirs have been established, including "adoptees". Certain heirship agreements have been made.

Howard Hughes married and divorced Ella Rice. Jean Peters, who was called his only second wife and divorced in 1971, receives remittances under the terms of an agreement. It is no Hollywood fantasy that many rich men had more than one wife, mistress and girl friends, including some men who wrote the Constitution of the United States. Therefore, it is not a fantasy that Howard Hughes had more than one wife in the 1940's and 1950's. The claim of Terry Moore, who also has no marriage certificate, was dismissed in Texas, prior to Alyce Hovsepian's dismissal. Now, in Las Vegas, it seems that she has reached a settlement, as a wife of Howard Hughes, Jr., since 1949, although she married and divorced three other husbands during that time.

The judgments of the Supreme Court of Texas may be enforceable in Nevada and in other states in which the decedent owned property. Therefore, it is imperative for this Court to find for the Petitioner, if it concludes that she has been deprived of her rights under the Constitution.

Petitioner Alyce Hovsepian, a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian Hughes, Pro Se, petitioner and appellant below, respectfully prays that a Writ of Certiorari issue to review the

*Argument*

judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Texas, which affirmed a final judgment for the Respondents and appellees below, by the Court of Civil Appeals, 14th Supreme Judicial District, Houston, Texas.

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CONCLUSION

---

For the above reasons petitioner prays that the writ be granted.

Respectfully submitted,  
ALYCE HOVSEPIAN,  
A/K/A ALYCE HOVSEPIAN HUGHES,  
PRO SE

34 South North Carolina Avenue  
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401  
Phone: (609) 344-4405  
(201) 461-2521

*Opinions, Supreme Court of Texas***APPENDIX****OPINIONS BELOW****THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS**

P.O. Box 12248      Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

January 5, 1983.

Ms. Alyce Hovesepian  
34 South North Carolina Avenue  
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Mr. Shelton Smith, Attorney  
2600 Two Houston Center  
Houston, Texas 77010

Mr. George Dean, Attorney  
P. O. Drawer F  
Destin, Florida 32541

Mr. Berry D. Bowen, Attorney  
4200 Texas Commerce Tower  
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Sirs:

Today the Supreme Court overruled motion for re-hearing in the case of ALYCE HOVESPIAN vs. GEORGE NEFF, EXECUTOR ET AL., No. C-1708

Very truly yours,  
(s) Garson R. Jackson  
Garson R. Jackson, Clerk

2a

*Opinions, Supreme Court of Texas*

THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

P.O. Box 12248      Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

December 15, 1982.

Ms. Alyce Hoveseian  
34 South North Carolina Avenue  
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Mr. Shelton Smith, Attorney  
2600 Two Houston Center  
Houston, Texas 77010

Mr. George Dean, Attorney  
P. O. Drawer F  
Destin, Florida 32541

Mr. Berry D. Bowen, Attorney  
4200 Texas Commerce Tower  
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Sirs:

The application for writ of error in the case of ALYCE HOVSEPIAN v. GEORGE NEFF, EXTR. ET AL., No. C-1708 was this day refused. No reversible error.

Very truly yours,  
(s) Garson R. Jackson  
Garson R. Jackson, Clerk

*Mandate, Court of Appeals*COURT OF APPEALS  
14TH SUPREME JUDICIAL DISTRICTCivil Courts Building  
Houston, Texas 77002

January 13, 1983

Ms. Anita Rodeheaver, County Clerk  
Harris County  
1010 Preston  
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: A2955—Alyce Hovsepian aka Alyce Hovsepian Hughes vs. George F. Neff, Independent Executor of Annette Gano Lummis and Norton Bond Executor of Rush Hughes, from Harris (Tr. Ct. No. 139, 362)

Dear Sir:

Enclosed, please find this Court's mandate in the above cause.

Respectfully,

(s) Mary Jane Smart  
Mary Jane Smart, Clerk

MJS:vt

Enclosure—w/mandate

xc: Hon. Alyce Hovsepian Hughes—w/o enclosure  
aka Alyce Hovsepian  
34 S. North Carolina Avenue  
Atlantic City, N. J. 08401

Hon. Thomas L. Schubert—w/o enclosure  
Andrews, Kurth, Campbell & Jones  
2500 Exxon Bldg.  
Houston, Texas 77002

**4a**

*Mandate, Court of Appeals*

Hon. Wayne Fisher—w/o enclosure  
Fisher, Gallagher, Perrin & Lewis  
2600 Two Houston Center  
Houston, Texas 77002

Hon. Arthur Leeds—w/o enclosure  
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Suite 2500  
Los Angeles, California 90067

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644-84-1903

Trial Court No. 139, 362  
No. A2955

**MANDATE  
14th COURT OF APPEALS  
HOUSTON**

---

**ALYCE HOVSEPIAN AKA ALYCE HOVSEPIAN  
HUGHES, APPELLANT**

**vs.**

**GEORGE F. NEFF, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF  
ANNETTE GANO LUMMIS AND NORTON BOND  
EXECUTOR OF RUSH HUGHES, APPELLEE**

---

**Issued January 13 1983**

**MARY JANE SMART, CLERK  
By Mary Jane Smart**

**To Probate Court No. 2, Harris County**

*Mandate, Court of Appeals***Certified Copy Certificate****State of Texas****County of Harris**

The above is a full, true, and correct photographic copy of the original record now in my lawful custody and possession, as the same is recorded in the Official Public Records of Probate Courts in my office and Preserved on Microfilm and having Microfilm Identification Number as stamped thereon, I hereby certify on

(Seal) FEB 7, 1983

ANITA RODEHEAVER  
COUNTY CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

By (s) Judy Sword  
Deputy

JUDY SWORD

---

PROBATE COURT NO. 2  
644-84-1902

Howard R. Hughes, Dec'd 139,362

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS  
977403 FOURTEENTH SUPREME JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

To the Probate Court No. 2 Court of Harris County,  
Greeting

Before our Court of Appeals, on the 12th day of August, A.D. 1982, the cause upon appeal to revise or reverse your judgment between ALYCE HOVSEPIAN AKA

*Mandate, Court of Appeals*

ALYCE HOVS PAIN HUGHES, APPELLANT vs.  
GEORGE F. NEFF, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF  
ESTATE OF ANNETTE GANO LUMMIS AND NOR-  
TON BOND EXECUTOR OF RUSH HUGHES, APPEL-  
LEE

No. A2955

From Harris County  
Tr. Ct. No. 139,362  
Opinion by CJ—Brown

was determined; and therein our said Court of Appeals made its order in these words:

“This cause, an appeal from the judgment signed and entered August 19, 1981, came on to be heard on the transcript of the record. The same having been inspected, it is the opinion of this Court that there is no error in the judgment. It is ordered and adjudged that the judgment of the Court below be affirmed.

In addition, it is ordered that Alyce Hovsepian, appellant, and her surety, Lawyers Corporation, pay all costs incurred by reason of this appeal. It is further ordered that this decision be certified below for observance.”

WHEREFORE, we command you to observe the Order of our Court of Appeals, in this behalf; and in all things to have it duly recognized, obeyed and executed.  
(Seal)

WITNESS, The Hon. J. CURTISS BROWN, Chief Justice of our Said 14th Court of Appeals, with the Seal thereof annexed, at HOUSTON, this the 13th day of January A.D. 1983

MARY JANE SMART, CLERK  
By (s) Mary Jane Smart

7a

*Mandate, Court of Appeals*

Filed

Jan 14 2 31 PM 1983

(s) Anita Rodeheaver

County Clerk  
Harris County, Texas

Certified Copy Certificate

State of Texas

County of Harris

The above is a full, true, and correct photographic copy of the original record now in my lawful custody and possession, as the same is recorded in the Official Public Records of Probate Courts in my office and Preserved on Microfilm and having Microfilm Identification Number as stamped thereon, I hereby certify on

(Seal) FEB 7 1983

ANITA RODEHEAVER  
COUNTY CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

By (s) Judy Sword  
Deputy  
JUDY SWORD

*Opinion, Court of Appeals*

COURT OF APPEALS  
14th SUPREME JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Civil Courts Building  
Houston, Texas 77002

October 7, 1982

Hon. Alyce Hovsepian Hughes  
34 S. North Carolina Avenue  
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401

Hon. Thomas L. Schubert  
Andrews, Kurth, Campbell & Jones  
2500 Exxon Building  
Houston, Texas 77002

Hon. Wayne Fisher  
Fisher, Gallagher, Perrin & Lewis  
2600 Two Houston Center  
Houston, Texas 77002

Hon. Arthur Leeds  
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Suite 2500  
Los Angeles, California 90067

Re: A2955—Alyce Hovsepian a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian  
Hughes, vs. George F. Neff, Independent Executor of  
Annette Gano Lummis and Norton Bond Executor of  
Rush Hughes, from Harris

Dear Madam and Sirs:

Please be advised that on this date in the above cause  
the Court OVERRULED appellant's motion for rehearing.

*Opinion, Court of Appeals*

Please be advised that application for writ of error, if any, must be submitted on or before Monday, November 8, 1982.

Respectfully,

(s) Mary Jane Smart  
MARY JANE SMART, CLERK

MJS: cm

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COURT OF APPEALS  
14TH SUPREME JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Houston, Texas

Affirmed, and Opinion filed August 12, 1982.

ALYCE HOVSEPIAN, a/k/a ALYCE HOVSEPIAN  
HUGHES, Appellant  
NO. A2955

VS.

GEORGE F. NEFF, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF  
ANNETTE GANO LUMMIS AND NORTON BOND,  
EXECUTOR OF RUSH HUGHES, Appellees

---

Appeal from the Probate Court No. 2  
of Harris County

Cause No. 139,362

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This is an appeal from the granting of a motion for summary judgment in a hearing to determine the heirs of the late Howard Robard Hughes, Jr. (Hughes). The

*Opinion, Court of Appeals*

judgment entered denied the claim of Alyce Hovsepian, a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian Hughes (Hovsepian or appellant), that she and Hughes were married on or about June 6, 1946 in New Jersey and that their marriage was never terminated. We affirm the judgment of the trial court.

George F. Neff, Executor of the Estate of Annette Gano Lummis, deceased, filed a motion for summary judgment on March 30, 1981, claiming any such marriage was void as a matter of law. In the motion the court was asked to take judicial notice of New Jersey law. New Jersey statutes and case law were attached to the motion which showed that at the time of the alleged marriage, and at all times since, New Jersey law has required certain formalities, including the obtainment of a marriage license, for a marriage to be valid in that state. No common law or informal marriage is recognized.

A portion of Hovsepian's deposition was attached to the motion for summary judgment in order to note her testimony as follows:

I did not know anything about getting a marriage license. I never applied for a marriage license. I had no intention of getting a marriage license. I did not know anything about it.

Also attached to the motion for summary judgment were two documents from the State of New Jersey. The first was signed by Charles A. Karkut, Registrar of Vital Statistics of New Jersey. It certified that no record of the alleged marriage is present in the official records of the State. The second document was signed by the Secretary of State of New Jersey and certified that Mr. Karkut was in fact the Registrar of Vital Statistics for the State of New

*Opinion, Court of Appeals*

Jersey and that the signature on the first document was his.<sup>1</sup>

On July 10, Avis Hughes McIntyre and Norton Bond, executor of the estate of Rush Hughes, filed a motion to join in the motion for summary judgment previously filed by Neff. Such motion was granted by the trial court on July 13, the day the hearing on the motion for summary judgment was held.

At the hearing the motion for summary judgment was granted as to Neff and those who joined in his motion. The record indicates no written answer to the motion for summary judgment was filed by Hovsepian. After the hearing she substituted herself as the attorney of record and has perfected appeal to this Court pro se.

Appellant first complains of the granting of leave to appellees McIntyre and Bond to join in the Neff motion for summary judgment. Tex. R. Civ. P. 166-A provides in pertinent part:

The motion for summary judgment shall state the specific grounds therefor. Except on leave of court, with notice to opposing counsel, the motion and any supporting affidavits shall be filed and served at least twenty-one days before the time specified for hearing.

The Neff motion clearly complied with the rule. As to the remainder of the appellees there was no objection to the action of the trial court. We note that appellant's position toward all appellees would necessarily be the same, and thus there would be no reason to deny such a

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<sup>1</sup> Without objection these two documents were substituted for a similar certificate from Karkut that apparently had a stamped signature.

*Opinion, Court of Appeals*

motion or grant a continuance based on alignment of parties. We hold that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in allowing the other appellees to join in the Neff motion, and any error was waived by appellant by not objecting to the granting of said motion. Tex. R. Civ. P. 166-A; *City of Houston v. Clear Creek Basin Authority*, 589 S.W.2d 671 (Tex. 1979); *Feller v. Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.*, 581 S.W.2d 775 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1979, no writ). In fact, appellant and her counsel appeared at the hearing ready to proceed. Appellant's point of error is overruled.

Appellant also complains of the propriety of summary judgment in this instance and the sufficiency of the summary judgment evidence. Texas summary judgment procedure has been used in and is, we think, as applicable to probate and heirship matters as to any other civil litigation. See, *Mossler v. Johnson*, 565 S.W.2d 952 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [1st Dist.] 1978, writ ref'd n.r.e.); *Morris v. Estate of West*, 602 S.W.2d 122 (Tex. Civ. App.—Eastland 1980, writ ref'd n.r.e.); *Walker v. Hanes*, 570 S.W.2d 534 (Tex. Civ. App.—Corpus Christi 1978, writ ref'd n.r.e.). Generally, "the validity of a marriage is determined by the law of the place where it was celebrated." *Braddock v. Taylor*, 592 S.W.2d 40, 42 (Tex. Civ. App.—Beaumont 1979, writ ref'd n.r.e.). There are no considerations that have been properly presented that would make the general rule inapplicable.

We have already noted the summary judgment proof presented in support of the motion and the fact that no written answer or response was filed. We hold that appellees proved as a matter of law that any alleged marriage in New Jersey was void. This was done through state-

*Opinion, Court of Appeals*

ments made by appellant in her depositions, by placing before the court the law of New Jersey pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 184a, and by placing before the court, pursuant to Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. Ann. art. 3731a (Vernon Supp. 1982), documents showing that the recordation required by New Jersey law was not present. Therefore, we overrule appellant's points of error claiming that appellees did not sustain their burden of proof to show the alleged marriage was void as a matter of law and that fact issues still remain.

At the hearing on the motion for summary judgment appellant argued a new claim that she and Hughes were married under the common law of Pennsylvania. She subsequently produced an affidavit in which she claims she remembered applying for a marriage license in New Jersey. These claims were not perfected and are thus not properly before this Court. Tex. R. Civ. P. 166-A; *City of Houston v. Clear Creek Basin Authority, supra*.

We have reviewed appellant's remaining points of error. They complain that Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. Ann. art. 3716 (Vernon 1926), the Dead Man's Statute, was not complied with and of such matters as deposition procedure, seating in the courtroom, inadequate time for appellant to consult with her attorney due to illness and travel, time allotted for argument, and the exclusion from evidence of exhibits presented at the hearing on the motion for summary judgment. The matters contained in these additional points of error are either not perfected and, therefore, not properly before this court pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 166-A, or do not direct the attention of this Court to any action of the trial court which would be proper for review pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 418 (d). Appellant's remaining points of error are overruled.

*Opinion, Court of Appeals  
Judgment*

The judgment of the trial court is affirmed.

(s) J. Curtiss Brown  
Chief Justice

Judgment Rendered and Opinion filed August 12,  
1982.

Panel consists of Chief Justice J. Curtiss Brown, Associate Justices Junell and Price.

No Publication—Tex. R. Civ. P. 452.

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A2955

ALYCE HOVSEPIAN a/k/a ALYCE HOVSEPIAN  
HUGHES

VS.

GEORGE F. NEFF, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF  
ANNETTE GANO LUMMIS AND NORTON BOND  
EXECUTOR OF RUSH HUGHES

**JUDGMENT**

"This cause, an appeal from the judgment signed and entered August 19, 1981, came on to be heard on the transcript of the record. The same having been inspected, it is the opinion of this Court that there is no error in the judgment. It is ordered and adjudged that the judgment of the Court below be affirmed.

In addition, it is ordered that Alyce Hovsepian, appellant, and her Surety, Lawyers Surety Corporation, pay all costs incurred by reason of this appeal. It is further ordered that this decision be certified below for observance."

*Judgment, August 19, 1981*

PROBATE COURT NO. 2

690-84-2008

768825

NO. 139,362

IN THE PROBATE COURT  
NUMBER TWO  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

ESTATE OF HOWARD ROBARD HUGHES  
DECEASED

Filed

Aug 19 12 01 PM '81

(s) Anita Rodeheaver  
COUNTY CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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JUDGMENT

---

On the 13th day of July, 1981, came on to be heard the Motion of George F. Neff and of Avis Hughes McIntyre and Norton Bond for Summary Judgment Against Alyce Hovespian, a/k/a Alyce Hovespian Hughes, in the Proceedings to Declare Heirship in the above-entitled and numbered cause. It appearing to the Court that such motions were made in proper form and time, that proper service thereof had been made, that Avis Hughes McIntyre and Norton Bond obtained leave of Court to join in the

*Judgment, August 19, 1981*

Motion of George F. Neff, that all interested parties were properly noticed for the July 13, 1981, hearing date, and that the parties were before the Court for hearings thereon; and, after hearing arguments of counsel in open court, it further appearing that the motion is good and should be granted, the Court FINDS, ORDERS, ADJUDGES AND DECREES as follows:

1. Upon hearing argument from all interested parties and upon consideration of the pleadings, depositions, affidavits and other summary judgment evidence on file herein, it appeared to the Court (i) that the said motions for summary judgment had been made in proper form and time, (ii) that proper service and notice of hearing thereof had been made, and (iii) that the motions, the records of proceedings herein, including the pleadings, depositions, affidavits, and other summary judgment evidence and the briefs and arguments of the parties demonstrated an absence of a genuine issue of any material fact and that, as a matter of law, George F. Neff are entitled to judgment and relief against Alyce Hovespian, a/k/a Alyce Hovespian Hughes as hereinafter provided for.

690-84-2009

2. It is, accordingly, ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that the Heirship Claim of Alyce Hovespian, a/k/a Alyce Hovespian Hughes be, and the same is hereby, denied and dismissed with prejudice, and that Alyce Hovespian, a/k/a Alyce Hovespian Hughes does hereby, take nothing by virtue of her claim to be an heir at law of the decedent Howard R. Hughes, Jr.

All Court costs incurred in connection with the Heirship Claim of Alyce Hovespian, a/k/a Alyce Hovespian

*Judgment, August 19, 1981*

Hughes shall be paid by Alyce Hovespian, a/k/a Alyce Hovespian Hughes for which let execution issue if such costs are not seasonably paid.

Dated and this 19 of August, 1981.

**RECORDER'S MEMORANDUM**

All blackouts, additions and changes were present at the time the instrument was filed and recorded.

(s) Pat [Illegible]  
**JUDGE PRESIDING**

Approved:

Andrews, Kurth, Campbell & Jones      Adler & Pettit

By (s) O Clayton Lilienstern  
Attorneys for  
George F. Neff, Executor of  
the Estate of Annette Gano Lummis,  
Deceased

By (s) Jim S. Adler  
Attorneys for  
Alyce Hovespian, a/k/a  
Alyce Hovespian Hughes

**FISHER, ROCH & GALLAGHER**

By (s) Wayne Fisher  
Attorneys for Avis Hughes  
McIntyre and Norton Bond,  
Executor of the Estate of  
Rush Hughes, Deceased

*Judgment, July 23, 1981*

689-00-1312

FILED

Jul 23 4 31 PM 1981

(s) Anita Rodeheaver

COUNTY CLERK  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

749986

No. 139,362

IN THE PROBATE COURT  
NUMBER TWO  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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ESTATE OF  
HOWARD ROBARD HUGHES, JR.,  
DECEASED

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JUDGMENT

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On the 13th day of July, 1981, in the Proceedings to Declare Heirship in the above styled and numbered cause, came on to be heard the separate trial of the issue of whether there be any surviving wife, parent, child or descendant of child, or brother or sister of the decedent, Howard R. Hughes, Jr. All interested persons were duly noticed of the July 13, 1981 trial date. Avis Hughes McIntyre and Norton Bond, Executor of the Estate of Rush Hughes, Deceased, appeared through their attorney of

*Judgment, July 23, 1981*

record and announced ready for trial. George F. Neff, Executor of the Estate of Annette Gano Lummis, Deceased, appeared through his attorney of record and announced ready for trial. Barbara Cameron, Agnes Roberts, and Elspeth DePould appeared through their attorney of record and announced ready for trial. Roberta Joyce Robard Hughes appeared through her attorney of record and announced ready for trial. The State of Texas appeared through its attorney of record and announced ready for trial. O. Theodore Dinkins, Jr., attorney ad litem for absent and unknown heirs, appeared and announced ready for trial.

The Court, after hearing the evidence and arguments of counsel, is of the opinion that there is no surviving wife, parent, child or descendant of child, or brother or sister of the decedent Howard R. Hughes, Jr.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Court that there is no surviving wife, parent, child or descendant of child, or brother or sister of the decedent, Howard R. Hughes, Jr.

SIGNED this 23 day of July, 1981.

(s) Pat [Illegible]  
JUDGE PRESIDING

*Proof of Service*

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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October Term, 1982

No.

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ALYCE HOVSEPIAN, A/K/A ALYCE HOVSEPIAN  
HUGHES, PRO SE,

Petitioner,

vs.

GEORGE F. NEFF, INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR OF  
THE ESTATE OF ANNETTE GANO LUMMIS AND  
NORTON BOND, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF  
RUSH HUGHES,

Respondents.

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PROOF OF SERVICE

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Alyce Hovsepian, a/k/a Alyce Hovsepian Hughes, pro se, deposes and says that pursuant to Rule 28.3 of this Court she served the within Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court of the State of Texas on counsel for the Respondents by instructing her printer (Murrelle Printing Company, Inc.) to enclose three copies each thereof in an envelope, first class postage prepaid, addressed to:

21a

*Proof of Service*

Berry Bowen, Esq.  
Andrew & Kurth  
4200 Texas Commerce Tower  
Houston, Texas 77002

Shelton Smith, Esq.  
Fisher, Gallagher, Perrin & Lewis  
2600 Two Houston Center  
Houston, Texas 77002

and depositing the same in the United States mails at Sayre,  
Pennsylvania, on the 9th day of June, 1983.

Alyce Hovsepian